

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 09017 162000Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 SS-15 SP-02 PA-02 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 /044 W
-----116177 180909Z /23
R 161705Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO USICA WASHDC
USINFO WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2826

UNCLAS ROME 9017

USICA

USICA PASS PGM/F

STATE FOR EUR/P (SEIDNER)

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE FOR ROME-BASED JOURNALIST
LEO WOLLEMBORG

1. POST REQUEST THAT WASHINGTON PRESS CENTER ASSIST
ROME-BASED JOURNALIST LEO WOLLEMBORG TO OBTAIN INTERVIEWS WITH
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE GEORGE VEST, ITALIAN DESK OFFICER
BRUNSON MCKINLEY AND SENATORS FRANK CHURCH, JOSEPH BIDEN AND
RICHARD STONE. WOLLEMBORG IS POLITICAL COLUMNIST FOR IMPORTANT
ROME CONSERVATIVE DAILY, IL TEMPO. HE PLANS TO BE IN
WASHINGTON, JUNE 4-18.

2. WOLLEMBORG WISHES DISCUSS NATO AND EAST-WEST ISSUES,
WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE CURRENT ITALIAN SITUATION.
WILL HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT CURRENT US ATTITUDES TOWARD PCI,
RED BRIGADES TERRORIST THREAT AND STRENGTH OF ITALIAN
COMMITMENT ON NATO SOUTHERN FLANK.

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3. LONG-TIME EMBASSY CONTACT, WOLLEMBORG IS ONE OF BEST
KNOWN MODERATE-CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL COMMENTATORS IN ITALY.
HE IS STRONG SUPPORTER CURRENT AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY, CAN
BE EXPECTED GIVE SYMPATHETIC TREATMENT TO VIEWS OF SUGGESTED
INTERLOCUTORS. POST REGARDS HIS VISIT AS OPPORTUNITY MAKE KEY
US POLICY POSITIONS KNOWN TO LARGE ITALIAN AUDIENCE.

4. WOLLEMBORG WAS BORN IN ITALY, BUT EMIGRATED TO US BEFORE WW II WHERE HE OBTAINED AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP WHICH HE STILL ENJOYS. HE RETURNED TO ITALY IN EARLY 1950'S AND HAS BEEN RESIDENT HERE SINCE THEN, HIS COLUMN IN IL TEMPO HAS APPEARED REGULARLY FOR MANY YEARS.

5. WOLLEMBORG WOULD PREFER CONDUCT INTERVIEWS ON THE RECORD, WITH INDIVIDUAL ATTRIBUTION, BUT, WHERE THIS SEEMS IMPRUDENT, HE WOULD BE PLEASED WITH BACKGROUND BRIEFINGS. WE ASSUME THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY VEST AND BRUNSON MCKINLEY WOULD BE LARGELY (IF NOT ENTIRELY) ON BACKGROUND. WOLLEMBORG CAN BE TRUSTED TO OBSERVE GROUND RULES.

5. CONTACT PROPOSED INTERVIEWEES SOONEST AND ADVISE, BEFORE WOLLEMBORG'S MAY 23 DEPARTURE FOR AMERICA, WHICH MEETINGS CAN BE ARRANGED. SHIRLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME09017
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780209-0254
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780554/aaaabtjw.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 29483e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2677490
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE FOR ROME-BASED JOURNALIST LEO WOLLEMBORG
TAGS: OTRA, US, IT, (WOOLEMBORG, LEO)
To: ICA USIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/29483e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014